



SENATOR RUNNER'S WEEK IN REVIEW

A WEEKLY REVIEW THAT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AND UP-TO-DATE



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Waste Watchers: DMV Employees Issue Fake IDs

There is no such thing as a quick trip to the DMV, a place that has become notorious for long lines. However, as many law abiding citizens wait in line, some illegal immigrants are finding that for just \$4,500 they can skip right to the front and get issued a state drivers license or id card. All this with the help of brokers who direct them to specific windows where a bribed DMV employee is waiting to process them.

News of the Week

[Sharon Runner Begins Third Term in State Assembly](#)

[Californians at Disadvantage with HSAs](#)

[Dan Walters Column: Will This Reform Get Off the Ground?](#)

[Weintraub Column: Voters Happier, But Faith in Future Lags](#)

[State Starts Crackdown on Uninsured Drivers](#)

[Space Tourism Not Too Far Off for 'Average Joe'](#)

[Distribution Center Coming to SCLA](#)

[Santa Clarita Council Getting Ready to Replace Smyth As He Has Left for State Assembly](#)

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle* (August 5, 2005), "Four employees of the state Department of Motor Vehicles office in Oakland have been charged in a scheme in which they accepted cash bribes in exchange for processing documents for illegal immigrants."

The charges "are the result of a 20-month investigation in which agents secretly followed employees, dug through one suspect's trash and spied on the busy Oakland DMV office." The officers were able to gather enough evidence to charge three of the employees with "conspiracy to commit fraud for allegedly accepting individual bribes of up to \$4,500." The fourth individual was arrested for allegedly serving as a broker for the illegal operation. All in all, the scheme "resulted in the issuance of more than 200 fraudulent licenses and ID card."

During the undercover investigation, an FBI agent posing as a client "intentionally marked the wrong answer on the 'overwhelming majority' of the questions on the written test," but was still issued a drivers license. He must have got an "A" for effort.

In many other cases, licenses were *"issued to clients who had not taken either a written or driving examination."* Although many of the driving basics can be learned simply by playing the red light green light game, it isn't comforting to know that in some cases this is all the drivers education experience required to receive a license—well, that and \$4,500 dollars.

This case is appalling and I am glad that the FBI was alerted to such a scheme and that these individuals will be prosecuted. I encourage all state employees to report any wrongdoing to proper authorities.

There is a reason people who have entered this country illegally should not be given drivers' licenses, it encourages more and more people to ignore our laws and it threatens our national security. I have consistently voted against allowing illegal immigrants drivers' licenses and will continue to advocate strict enforcement of our immigration laws.

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